

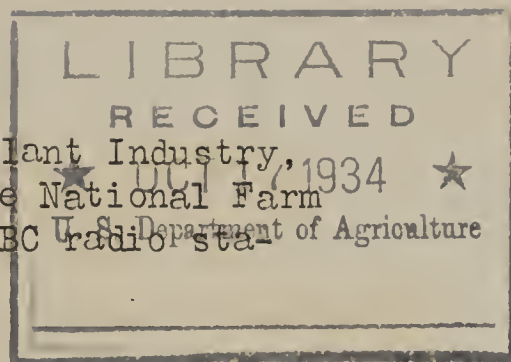
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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Wednesday, October 10, 1934.



Hello Folks. Today in our garden calendar period I am inviting all of you to go nutting with me. The kind of nuts that you gather on this little trip will depend upon where you are located; it may be walnuts, butternuts, hickory nuts, or hazel nuts. On our little trip to the woods today we are not going to just simply look for nuts, any kind of nuts, but we are going in search of superior wild nuts, nuts that are above the average in quality and production.

Mr. C. A. Reed, the nut specialist of the Department came to see me the other day and he wishes me to pass the word on to you that he and other Department workers are looking for native nut trees which produce nuts well above the average of their kind in so far as the merits of the nuts are concerned. This information is wanted in order that we may help the farmers of the country in selecting varieties for growing on their home grounds where they will not only produce excellent food but serve as shade and ornamental trees as well. The black walnut, the butternut and often the hickories make excellent trees for planting about the home. The hickories are really thoroughbreds among trees but like any other fine tree they must not be treated as scrubs. In other words to grow good nut trees of any kind you must plant them on good land.

Now, here is what Mr. Reed and the other Department workers want and I will try to give you the idea right in a nutshell. If you have on your place any trees of black walnut, butternut, hickory, northern pecan, native hazel or even a beech that bears really superior nuts send Mr. Reed a few of the nuts for examination. He would even like you to send in seeds of a sweet acorn that is good to eat, if you know of one. The Department is not buying nuts, but if you have good nuts to sell we could send you the names of a few firms that we happen to know are in the market for nuts of the kinds you have to offer. Of course there is no special market at present for edible beechnuts and acorns. Mr. Reed would like for you to select and send him, C. A. Reed, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., about two pounds of any of the larger nuts like walnuts or butternuts, and one pound or even a half pound of any of the smaller ones like hickory nuts or hazels. He will acknowledge their receipt and later, not later than February 1st, you will be sent a report as to the merits of these nuts in comparison with others. If the seedling nuts that you send appear to be good enough to graft from and use as a horticultural variety, or if on the other hand they do not appear to be worth propagating you will be told. If you have what appears to be a superior kind, that fact will be made public so that others who may be interested may write you for the purchase of scions.

Now, don't get the idea that this is a get rich quick scheme for so far as we are informed there are no buyers in the market who are likely to pay a large price for any superior variety that you may chance to have. On the other hand this is a chance for you to contribute your bit toward the advancement of nut culture in your part of the country. You may be

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interested to know that certain State organizations are offering cash prizes for the best nuts which may be submitted from within their State boundaries, also, what is more important, the Northern Nut Growers Association is conducting a general contest for the best black walnut, butternut, hickory and native hazel which may be submitted. The workers in the Department are cooperating closely with these agencies and in case you send in samples of really good nuts you will be put in touch with the proper committee in order that you may compete in your own State where such contest is being held, or in any case you will be put in touch with the Northern Nut Growers Association.

First, send two pounds of any good native nuts, except chestnuts, to C. A. Reed, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Second, be sure that each lot is so marked or numbered that you will know the exact tree from which they came. Send lots from as many trees as you like so long as the nuts are really superior and you keep the necessary records.

Third, one-half pound samples are enough of any of the smaller nuts.

Fourth, write your name and return address on the upper left-hand corner of the package and send a letter to Mr. Reed giving full particulars regarding the nuts, and lastly, be sure to send firstclass and superior nuts only. Nuts must be of very good grade and of extra fine quality to be of interest. If you have a nut tree on your place that produces nuts that you think are superior, but you are not quite sure, send a sample anyway and in return you will get a nice letter telling you how the sample grades and exactly what good nuts really are like.

If there is anything in this nut improvement proposition that you do not understand, just write me, your radio spokesman and adviser and I will see that you get full information, and thanks a lot.